

# Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report For Blackstone/Millville Elementary School



Prepared by the  
Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection,  
Bureau of Resource Protection,  
Drinking Water Program

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**Table 1: Public Water System (PWS) Information**

<i>PWS NAME</i>	Blackstone/Millville Elementary School
<i>PWS Address</i>	122 Berthelette Way
<i>City/Town</i>	Millville
<i>PWS ID Number</i>	2188004
<i>Local Contact</i>	Aldo Ceochi
<i>Phone Number</i>	(508) 883-4400

<i>Well Name</i>	<i>Source ID#</i>	<i>Zone I (in feet)</i>	<i>IWPA (in feet)</i>	<i>Source Susceptibility</i>
Well #1	2188004-01G	172	467	Low

## What is SWAP?

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to:

- ? inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources;
- ? assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and
- ? publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

## SWAP and Water Quality

Susceptibility of a drinking water source does *not* imply poor water quality. Actual water quality is best reflected by the results of regular water tests.

Water suppliers protect drinking water by monitoring for more than 100 chemicals, treating water supplies, and using source protection measures to ensure that safe water is delivered to the tap.

## Introduction

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential sources of contamination including septic systems, road salting, and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Citizens and local officials can work together to better protect these drinking water sources.

### Purpose of this report:

This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. By identifying land uses within water supply protection areas that may be potential sources of contamination, the assessment helps focus protection efforts on appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and drinking water source protection measures. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff are available to provide information about funding and other resources that may be available to your community.

### This report includes:

1. Description of the Water System
2. Discussion of Land Uses within Protection Areas
3. Recommendations for Protection
4. Attachments, including a Map of the Protection Areas

## 1. Description of the Water System

The well for the facility is located northwest of the school, in a forested area. The well has a Zone I of 280 feet and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) of 756 feet. The well is located in a sand and gravel aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. Please refer to the attached map of the Zone I and IWPA.

The well serving the facility has potassium chloride added for corrosion control. For current information on monitoring results and treatment, please contact the Public Water System contact person listed above in Table 1.

### What is a Protection Area?

A well's water supply protection area is the land around the well where protection activities should be focused. Each well has a Zone I protective radius and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

- **The Zone I** is the area that should be owned or controlled by the water supplier and limited to water supply activities.

- **The IWPA** is the larger area that is likely to contribute water to the well.

In many instances the IWPA does not include the entire land area that could contribute water to the well. Therefore, the well may be susceptible to contamination from activities outside of the IWPA that are not identified in this report.

### What is Susceptibility?

Susceptibility is a measure of a well's potential to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within the Zone I and Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

## 2. Discussion of Land Uses in the Protection Areas

There is a land use within the drinking water supply protection area that is a potential source of contamination.

Key issue:

**Zone I and IWPA - a Stream within the Zone I and IWPA.**

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the well is Low, based on the presence of low threat land use or activity in the IWPA, as seen in Table 2.

**Zone I** – Currently, the well does not meet DEP's restrictions, which only allow water supply related activities in Zone Is. The facility's Zone I contains a stream. Please note that systems not meeting DEP Zone I requirements must get DEP approval and address Zone I issues prior to increasing water use or modifying systems.

#### Recommendation

- ✓ Remove all non-water supply activities from the Zone I to comply with DEP's Zone I requirements

Implementing the following recommendations will reduce the system's susceptibility to contamination.

## 3. Protection Recommendations

Implementing protection measures and best management practices (BMPs) will reduce the well's susceptibility to contamination. Blackstone/Millville Elementary School should review and adopt the following recommendations at the facility:

#### Zone I:

- ✓ Since the Zone I is located in a secluded area, it is recommended that regular inspections of the Zone I be conducted. Look for illegal dumping, evidence of

**Table 2: Table of Activities within the Water Supply Protection Areas**

Facility Type	Potential Contaminant Sources	Zone I	IWPA	Threat	Comments
School	Aquatic Wildlife	Yes	Yes	Low	Stream within Zone I

\* -For more information on Contaminants of Concern associated with individual facility types and land uses please see the SWAP Draft Land Use / Associated Contaminants Matrix on DEP's website - [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/).

## Glossary

**Zone I:** The area closest to a well; a 100 to 400 foot radius proportional to the well's pumping rate. To determine your Zone I radius, refer to the attached map.

**IWPA:** A 400 foot to ½ mile radius around a public water supply well proportional to its pumping rate; the area DEP recommends for protection in the absence of a defined Zone I I. To determine IWPA radius, refer to the attached map.

**Zone II:** The primary recharge area defined by a hydrogeologic study.

**Aquifer:** An underground water-bearing layer of permeable material that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well.

**Hydrogeologic Barrier:** An underground layer of impermeable material that resists penetration by water.

**Recharge Area:** The surface area that contributes water to a well.

vandalism, check any above ground tanks for leaks, etc.

### Training and Education:

- ✓ Incorporate groundwater education into school curriculum K-6 and 7-12 curricula available; contact DEP for copies).

### Facilities Management:

- ✓ Implement standard operating procedures regarding proper storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials.

### Planning:

- ✓ Work with local officials in Millville to include the school's IWPA in Aquifer Protection District Bylaws and to assist you in improving protection.
- ✓ Have a plan to address short-term water shortages and long-term water demands. Keep the phone number of a bottled water company readily available.
- ✓ Supplement the SWAP assessment with additional local information and incorporate it into water supply educational efforts. Use a potential contaminant threat inventory to assist in setting priorities, focusing inspections, and creating educational activities.

### Funding:

The Department's Wellhead Protection Grant Program provides funds to assist public water suppliers in addressing Wellhead protection through local projects. Protection recommendations discussed in this document may be eligible for funding under the "Wellhead Protection Grant Program". For additional information, please refer to the attached program fact sheet from last year (Please note: each program year the Department posts a new Request for Response for the Grant program (RFR)).

These recommendations are only part of your ongoing local drinking water source protection. Citizens and community officials should use this SWAP report to spur discussion of local drinking water protection measures.

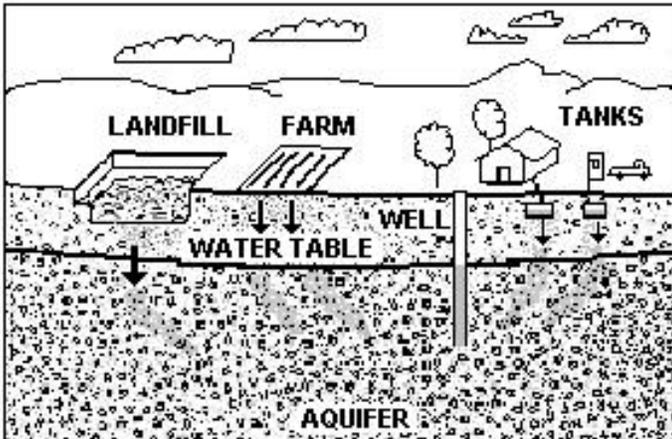


Figure 1: Example of how a well could become contaminated by different land uses and activities.

## 4. Attachments

- Map of the Public Water Supply (PWS) Protection Area.
- Recommended Source Protection Measures Factsheet

### Additional Documents:

To help with source protection efforts, more information is available by request or online at [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws) including:

**For More Information:**

Contact **Josephine Yemoh-Ndi** in DEP's **Worcester Office** at **(508) 792-7650 x 5030** for more information and for assistance in improving current protection measures.

More information relating to drinking water and source protection is available on DEP's web site at:  
[www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws).

Copies of this assessment have been provided to the water department, town boards, the town library and the local media.

1. Water Supply Protection Guidance Materials such as model regulations, Best Management Practice information, and general water supply protection information.
2. MA DEP SWAP Strategy
3. Land Use Pollution Potential Matrix
4. Draft Land/Associated Contaminants Matrix